

# THE SCROLL

MAY 11, 2012

O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL | SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

VOLUME 48, ISSUE 7



Seniors Veronica Fritsch and Erik Friestad, along with other cast members, prepare their hair and makeup backstage before a performance of *The Music Man*. The show debuted April 19 as the first musical in the new Performing Arts Center.

## Students prepare for trip to Germany with planned stops in Berlin, Munich

Frankie Maxwell  
Entertainment Co-Editor

A group of O'Gorman students is set to travel to Germany this summer and earn credit as part of the trip.

This year the school is trying a new program called German American Partnership Program (GAPP), and it will be a two way exchange. O'Gorman students will visit Germany from June 8-30, and O'Gorman will host 23 German students in October 2012.

"Participants will live the life of a German teenager, be in host families and attend school followed by a week of traveling through Germany," said German teacher Kristin Kuchenbecker.

The students who are attending have already been in touch with their host families through Facebook as well as email.

"We will visit Cologne, Berlin, and Munich and Sioux Falls' Sister City Potsdam," said Kuchenbecker. "Some of the sights we will visit include The Berlin Wall, The Reichstag, Neuschwanstein Castle and the Concentration Camp Dachau."

Kuchenbecker says she is always excited to see the students' reactions at meeting their host families for the first time.

She also wants her students to get a feel for the German culture.

"I would like for them to explore German culture, test out how much German they already know, and see the world from a different point of view," said Kuchenbecker.

"I hope this will be the first of many exchanges and I am also looking forward to having Germans at OGHS and share German culture with the OG community."

## Four teachers bid farewell to high school

Shae Krimmelbein  
Activities Co-Editor

Four teachers will be leaving O'Gorman this year. Veteran teacher Rod Garrison will be retiring.

"My wife says I have two seasons: golf and hunting," said Garrison. Even though he will retire from teaching, Garrison will continue coaching golf.

Soukup will be leaving O'Gorman this year to spend more time with her family. "As my family grows, I want to be there for that," said Soukup.

There are many memories Soukup has of her students. "I ran into one over Christmas break one time. He ran over to say hello and gave me a hug," said Soukup. "I am sad to leave but, it was my decision," said Soukup.

After teaching at O'Gorman for two years, Thorn is leaving this year. "There are a lot of unknowns at this point, but that's half the fun," said Thorn.

With her wedding in June, she will be moving to Milwaukee for a month and then to Omaha for her fiancé's first year of residency. "Having done long distance for the past two years of our relationship, we thought it

might be a fun idea to start our married life by living in the same city," said Thorn.

Her fondest memory is one from her birthday last year. "Last year a few of my students helped me celebrate my birthday by decorating my room and making me a birthday cake," said Thorn.

"Still being new to Sioux Falls, and being away from friends and family, it really meant a lot that my students went out of their way to make me feel special," said Thorn.

"I also enjoyed the Justin Bieber pictures they posted on my door to celebrate," said Thorn.

Another memory from last year holds more fun from Thorn's Scripture class. "Pierce Edman and Kyle Scholten reenacted Jesus' birth for their entire Scripture class. That is an image that will be burned into my memory forever."

Thorn is happy to be starting a new chapter in her life with her fiancé, Robert Daro.

Rutten will be staying with the Catholic Diocese as he will be moving into a full-time position as the Director of Religious Education at the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

## Golfers take lead in city; state tournament set for May 21-22

Tom Breske  
Frankie Maxwell

Following a state championship victory, the Knights girls golfers are back on top this spring, but Lincoln trails close behind in the city race.

Wins in rounds one, three and four of the city golf tournament have given the Knights added confidence as they attempt to capture the city title. "We know that we have the ability to win now," said senior Michaela Kouri. "We just need to keep improving."

Lincoln fought back in round two of the weekly city tournament to give O'Gorman their only loss. "We lost by three strokes. There were definitely strokes that we left out

there," said Kouri.

Round four on April 25 put the Knights in the lead after shooting a team score of 163. Their running score is 661. Lincoln trails by seven with a 668. Four out of six individual scores are taken at every tournament for the team score.

Junior Claire Jansa holds the individual lead in the city golf tournament. Her combined score is 157. Katie Grevlos of Lincoln is two strokes behind at 159.

The final city meet is at Elmwood on May 15.

The Knights also posted a score of 360 to win the Yankton Invite, a 14-school, statewide tournament.

The girls defeated Yankton, Lincoln,

Washington, West Central and Brandon in separate duel matches.

At the Huron Invite on April 24, a deep 320 gave the Knights a 15-stroke victory over Pierre who came in second, shooting 335.

This year's state tournament is held at O'Gorman's home course, Elmwood. "Lincoln, Pierre, and Yankton will be our main competition at the state tournament," said coach Rod Garrison.

Individual medalist is an award sought after for the best score overall in the tournament. "There are about ten girls vying for medalist," said Garrison. "We don't focus on the individual score," he added. "The team comes first."



Freshman Kelsey Johnson tries to sink a putt.

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# Teacher retiring after 43 years; Garrison to continue coaching

Tom Breske  
Sports Co-Editor

As Rod Garrison sits at his laptop in the O’Gorman shop, he ponders some of the most memorable moments in his 43 years as a teacher. “There are all kinds of them,” he says with a laugh.

After his 34th year at O’Gorman, Garrison, better known as “Grizz,” is retiring from teaching.

“From the years of my older sister, my brother, and my years, Grizz has always had a positive reputation,” said senior Wes Bednar. “You can ask any student, any grade, and they will never dislike him because he’s the funniest person at O’Gorman.”

Garrison has been a teacher for 43 years. He started teaching at Clay Central Community School in Royal, Iowa for four years. He then moved to Clark, S.D. for two years and taught a number of years in Elroy, Wis. Garrison arrived at O’Gorman in the fall of 1978.

It only took one year for Mr. Garrison to become Grizz. “A group of girls that caused problems in 1979 said that I acted like an old grizzly bear because I would get after them,” said Garrison. “The name stuck.”

Teaching a few years at O’Gorman made Garrison realize that this school is something special. “O’Gorman has the most to offer with regard to faith development,” said Garrison. “The kids also behave much better, and I really liked the dress code.”

All three of Garrison’s children attended O’Gorman. He has two daughters and a son. “I knew I was going to stay here when my oldest daughter started Junior High in 1981 and we moved to Sioux Falls from Tea.” His oldest daughter, Lori, graduated in 1987. Jackie graduated in 1990, and John graduated in 1994.



TOM BRESKE / KNIGHT SCROLL

Head coach Rod Garrison gives coaches the girls golf team. Garrison is retiring this year after 43 years of teaching.

He has only considered leaving once, in the late 1980s, when there was an opening to be on the coaching staff at Yankton High School and possibly be head football coach. Garrison never interviewed.

Thousands of students have had run-ins with Grizz. Any student that skipped school from 1979 to 2004 answered to one person: Garrison, who served as attendance director.

“We once found seven kids hiding behind the wall in the boys bathroom outside the shop,” said Garrison. “We would always catch kids hiding above the ceiling and underneath the stage in the auditorium.”

Garrison is best known for coaching golf, but he was also the head track coach from 1978 to 1983. From 1978 to 1979 he was an assistant football coach. He became the head girls golf coach in 1985 after assistant coaching for one year.

Twenty-seven years later, Garrison is still coaching golf. He took the role of head boys golf coach in 2002.

Garrison has claimed 10 state championships with the girls team and four with the boys. He is currently the grand champion golf coach of South Dakota after winning back-to-back girls and boys state golf tournaments in 2010 and 2011. “I don’t measure success by wins and losses,” said Garrison. “It’s rewarding enough to see how well these athletes develop.”

“He taught me teamwork, and I wouldn’t be able to get around the [golf] course without his help,” said senior golfer Michaela Kouri. “He is a great coach who can make things fun but at the same time teach me a thing or two.”

“Grizz really cares. He wants to see all of his players become the best that they can be,” said sophomore Max Donohue.

# Tennis squad lacks dominance of past seasons with tough foes

Veronica Fritsch  
Faith Co-Editor

Tennis season is in full swing as the Knights hope to continue their winning tradition at the state tournament this year. Although there is a definite hole in the team from the nine seniors that graduated last year, younger members and current seniors have stepped up to the challenge.

Senior Anthony Rauschenbach leads the Knights as the number one singles player, with sophomore Tommy Entwistle who plays number two, and senior Brian Billion who plays number three.

“Obviously losing a huge group of seniors and also two players not playing from last year is difficult to recover from, but I think we are doing a good job filling those spots and continuing to improve throughout the season,” said Rauschenbach.

Thus far, the Knights have only lost one match, which was to Washington early in the season. Recent victories include a 6-3 win over the Lincoln Patriots.

“I feel confident in our team’s performance this season and I’ve seen a lot of improvement in my teammates and my own game,” said Rauschenbach.

“I think many of us still have the potential to improve by the state tournament.”

Other teams vying for the title include Washington, Lincoln, Watertown and Rapid City Stevens. Washington is the favorite to take the title this year, as they placed second behind the Knights last year.

Rauschenbach said that the key to winning state will be pulling through in the big matches and everyone playing at the top of their game.

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# Track team overcomes challenges; underclassmen lead team this year

Miranda Masek  
Opinion Editor

Despite a shaky start, Knights track is gaining momentum. An underclassman majority brings fresh talent in spite of less experience.

“The team has changed a lot since last year. Last year we had quite a few upperclassmen out and a lot of them were seniors. Those seniors were big point scorers at meets so not having them is a big change,” said senior Chandler Nielsen.

In addition to fewer upperclassmen, the team also faces less numbers in general.

“Like any other team, we have had our slower days and injuries, but I think one of our main challenges is the numbers we have,” said sophomore Anne Prouse. “Since the other Sioux Falls

schools are bigger they have more people to run and to work with.”

As a result, seniors are stepping up and leading the group.

“We realize that it is very important to keep everyone motivated because track can be pretty draining, so we work hard and try to lead by example,” said Nielsen.

“When I need some help they are always there to give some pointers,” said sophomore Tanner Schulte.

Through every challenge, the team remains optimistic.

“At the beginning of the year no one would have thought that we would be doing as good as we are now and I feel that this is just the beginning,” said junior Chance Freese.

“At a lot of the meets we are running in races that are containing the front runners and times that are expected to be ran at the

state meet, and we are within reach of those times. From a distance prospective we are already running faster in the 4x800 and are ranked fourth in the state with a time that’s faster than we ran at state last year and it’s still April.”

The team continues to work hard in preparation for the state meet May 25-26.

“The team worked extra hard this year to please the coaches and show improvement, plus the practices have gotten more intense,” said junior Katelynn Galema.

“Sometimes the workouts can be pretty hard but they are getting us in shape. At the meets people have been getting worked into many different races so that the coaches can find who fits best where with relays and open events,” said Nielsen.





The class of 2012 is the 50th class to graduate from O'Gorman High School since the school opened in 1961.

## CLASS OF..

2012

**"It's a class that's been on par with every class that's gone through O'Gorman. The class of 2012 will always be able to look back and say 'we got it done'."**  
*The world's not ending, we're just taking over!*

Ellen Nelson  
Editor-in-Chief

O'Gorman High School's class of 2012 prepares to celebrate twelve years of schooling as their graduation date is rapidly approaching.

More than that though, the senior class will be celebrating great growth and success - both as a whole and individually.

The senior class had been somewhat in the backdrop of O'Gorman. After last year's class left, people weren't sure what exactly to expect.

"Everyone was impressed with what [the senior class] was able to do - academically, athletically, with activities," said assistant principal Joan Mahoney. "They surprised a lot of people."

The seniors' talent and dedication has revealed itself across the board as the class of 2012 had a great enthusiasm for O'Gorman.

"In everything we did, I felt a strong senior presence," said Mahoney.

The debate team has expanded. The show choir has reached new heights. The oral interp team has proven that they will not be underestimated. And the boys basketball team won their third straight basketball championship.

All under the leadership of this year's senior class.

Our class is "versatile to say in one word," said senior Michael Payne. "There's a lot of talent everywhere - on the football field, basketball court, in the theater, in interp, everywhere."

"It's a class that's been on par with every class that's gone through O'Gorman," said Mahoney. "The class of 2012 will always be able to look back and say 'we got it done'."

Not only has the senior class proven that they can keep up with the best, but they have also grown.

We've gotten closer and branched out more this year, said senior Geni Fuller. "We were the *senior class*."

The senior class "really grew as a class and matured immensely from freshman year to senior year," said Mahoney.

Our class used to be filled with cliques, said Payne. Now our class is more accepting. The 'jocks' don't see the theater kids as stereotypical 'theater kids.' They can be friends.

Whether it is through going to support a sports team, club, or activity of some kind, this year's senior class has done its best to ensure support for all.

In addition to coming together as a

class, the seniors also show guidance throughout the school year.

"People stepped up and became leaders and stood up for each other," said Mahoney.

We showed the juniors how to behave next year and set the standards high, said Fuller.

"We've basically been like a big brother [to the underclassmen]," said Payne. "I see our group in them."

"[The seniors] offered a level of maturity and a leadership that really helped especially the freshmen transition from middle school into high school," said Mahoney.

Despite the successes and leadership the class of 2012 has brought to O'Gorman, it is time for the seniors to move on to the next step in life.

"We're all at a point in our lives where we are ready for a change," said Fuller.

The seniors have spent the last four years dedicating time and effort to their grades, activities, sports, and faith. All the while they have been maintaining and improving the standard at O'Gorman.

"You guys set the bar high, said Mahoney. "Now the challenge is, will next year's [class] be able to."

What are you most looking forward to after high school?



"Not having to keep my facial hair groomed."  
Dusty Haffeman



"Going shopping for dorm stuff."  
Abby Lauer



"Wearing a hat."  
Luke Witte



"Going to Europe next fall and living in Rome."  
Lizzie O'Connell

## Senior Class Prayer

Almighty Father,

You bring us together today as one body of Christ.

Thank you for giving us this day though we come to you as sinners.

Quiet our minds to hear your voice.

Strengthen us to seek your will that we may imitate Christ through the virtues of faith, hope, and love.

Humble our hearts to serve one another.

In your name we pray. Amen.

St. Thomas Aquinas, patron of students, pray for us.



# Wallin, Schaeffbauer end storied careers

Lauren Bird  
Josh Jorgensen

The *Knight Scroll* recently had an opportunity to sit down with basketball standouts Sam Wallin and Connor Schaeffbauer. The two ended their careers at O'Gorman being a part of three state championship teams.

*Knight Scroll:* Both of you were a part of this three peat from the beginning, something that has never been done. How does that feel? Will it be strange to never play together again?

Connor Schaeffbauer: Well, to be honest, it was unbelievable. Our sophomore year we weren't a very good team and we weren't supposed to do anything special. It is going to be weird not playing, but it is definitely the way you want to go out.

Sam Wallin: I think it was cool because at the beginning of the year everybody thought that we weren't going to be very good, but we were able to show them that we were better than everyone else.

*KS:* After being key parts of these basketball runs, how do you feel that you won't play again?

CS: I will miss it when the season comes around next year. The season is kind of a grind, but three championships in your high school career is pretty special and is enough for me to hang up the jersey.

SW: We've been playing together since kindergarten and it is sad to see it go, but it will be nice to move on to bigger things.

*KS:* How have you two meshed all these years?

CS: I think we've meshed pretty well to be honest. This year we had a bunch of seniors, but the past two years it has really just been Wally and I getting time on the court. We played really well this season and have had probably the best season we could have had as leaders this year. We have meshed pretty well.

SW: Freshman year, I was the only freshman on the varsity team which was tough, but it was nice when Schaeff got moved up to varsity sophomore year to be my partner in crime.

*KS:* Connor, what made you choose baseball at the U of M?

CS: I knew it was going to be baseball based



JOSH JORGENSEN / KNIGHT SCROLL

ABOVE: Seniors Sam Wallin and Connor Schaeffbauer were part of three state championship teams at O'Gorman. Wallin is going to play football at Augustana College next fall while Schaeffbauer will be playing baseball at the University of Minnesota.

RIGHT: Seniors Sam Wallin and Connor Schaeffbauer set up a play against Rapid City Central. The Knights went on to win 53-46 against the Cobblers.



KNIGHT SCROLL

on my physical stature. It wasn't going to be football or basketball. Out of the options that were available, I went to Minnesota. It was just the place- it was where I needed to be.

*KS:* Sam, what made you choose football at Augie?

SW: Freshman year I weighed 180 pounds, and I thought that basketball was going to be my thing. Then I gained a bunch of weight and got up to 225 and everyone was saying that you have to go out. So then I tried football and I loved it more than anything. Augie is awesome.

*KS:* Both of you were also big parts of the state

runner-up in football last year, and key components of this year's team, How does it feel Connor, that you will not play again?

CS: Football I wouldn't say it's my least favorite, but when fall comes around it will be really difficult.

*KS:* Sam, are you glad that you chose the sport that you did to go to Augie, and what made your final decision?

SW: Yeah I'm glad. Football was the best thing for me. I made my final decision when I met with the coaches and realized that the program is just great. They built the new stadium right down the road.

See Q & A page 11

## Senior with the best...

### Laugh

1. Kade Lamberty
2. Joey Bezenek
3. Mitch Kasten

1. Rachel Ormseth
2. Jessie Cink
3. Crystal Berg

### Smile

1. David Saavedra
2. Anthony Rauschenbach
3. Mitch Kasten

1. Molly Amundson
2. Veronica Fritsch
3. Jessie Cink

### Work Ethic

1. Danny Mohama
2. Sam Steffl
3. Aaron Tarnasky

1. Mary Prouse
2. Laura Rezac
3. Chandler Nielsen

### Style

1. Frankie Maxwell
2. Aaron Culey
3. Joey Bezenek

1. Veronica Fritsch
2. Lauren Bird
3. Leila Awadallah

### Attitude

1. Tony Klein
2. Luke Witte
3. Brian Billion

1. Liz Busch
2. Kristen Jones
3. Jessie Cink

### Hair

1. Jonah Beacom
2. John Schoppert
3. Austyn Young

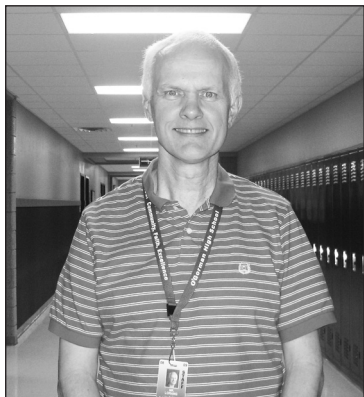
1. Kaylor Lang
2. Abby Lauer
3. Cassie Wilka

### Eyes

1. Dylan Bakken
2. Austin Holzer
3. Dusty Haffeman

1. Katy Viereck
2. Lauren Promes
3. Molly Fritz

## Photo Survey: Which 2012 senior will you miss most?



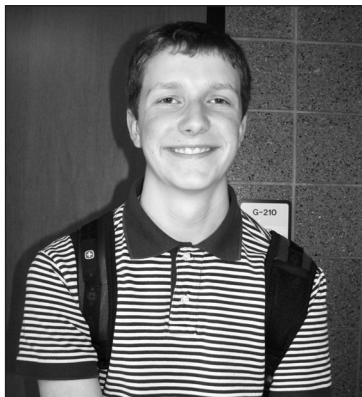
"My award winning advisory."

Mr. Lorang



"Mikey or Frankie... I just can't choose!"

Hailey Maxwell



"Luke Witte because he's cool."

Carl Gaspar



"Anna Hassel - I'm going to miss our jam sessions to cheesy country music."

Racheal Haiar





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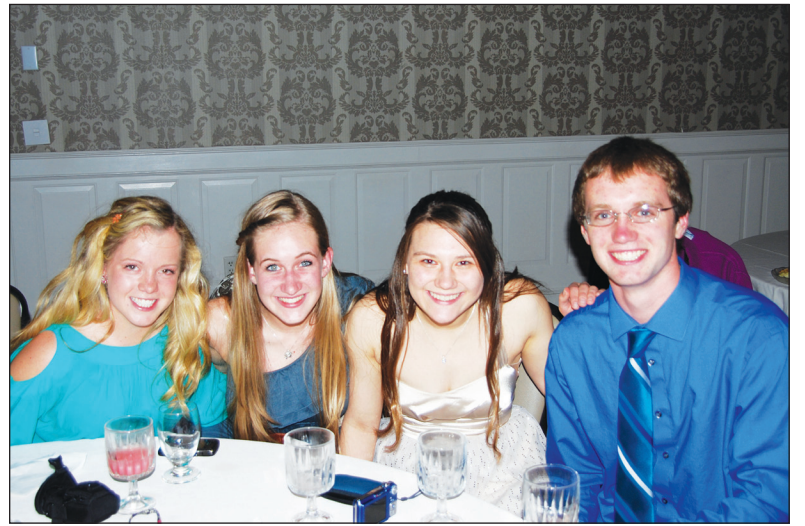
SDSU



Left: Seniors Sam Steffl and Ashton Weber are crowned homecoming king and queen at the 2011 variety show. The coronation wrapped up the homecoming festivities for the week.



Right: (L to R) Seniors Mary Prouse, Morgan Erickson, Beth Honner and Connor Branick enjoy their time at the senior dinner dance. It was one of the last times for the senior class to get together before they graduate.



## Senior Branick closes out strong HS running career

Jake Schreck  
Entertainment Co-Editor

One may think that having a rigorous school schedule with multiple AP courses while participating in numerous school activities would leave little time for things outside of school, but Connor Branick says this is not the case.

"It's not really hard to balance homework and sports as long as you maintain focus and discipline," said Branick. "As long as I don't get sucked into Facebook or YouTube, I am able to study and finish homework in a timely manner before bed."

Branick says he will miss the close relationships that he has made with his fellow classmates and teachers.

"Out of all the things I will miss from O'Gorman, it is the people that I will miss the most. The staff and students here at O'Gorman interact not only on a teacher-student relationship but

also as a family. I know it sounds cheesy, but we share common beliefs and that is encouraging for us as young adults to hear math and science teachers talking about their faith."

While at O'Gorman, Branick has participated in band, cross country and track and said that some of his best memories from high school have come from those activities.

"One my favorite memories from high school is finishing third as a team in the cross country state meet my junior year. It was great, mostly because we started out the year ranked in the bottom three, but our team worked together and shocked the rest of the state by getting third."

"I will be attending South Dakota State University in the fall, studying either Biology or Pre-Pharmacy. I will also be running in cross country and indoor/outdoor track."

After college, Branick has an idea of what he wants to do, but



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Connor Branick runs at a cross country meet last fall.

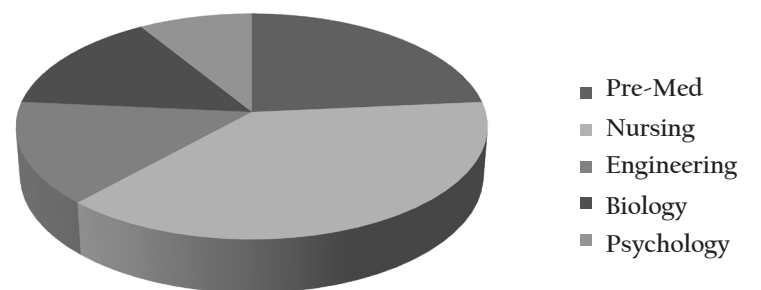
is not certain of anything just yet.

"In addition to running triathlons, I want to move to the mountain ranges in Montana, or the river between Wisconsin and Minnesota. However, that far in the future seems unfathomable right now, and it is extremely likely to change."

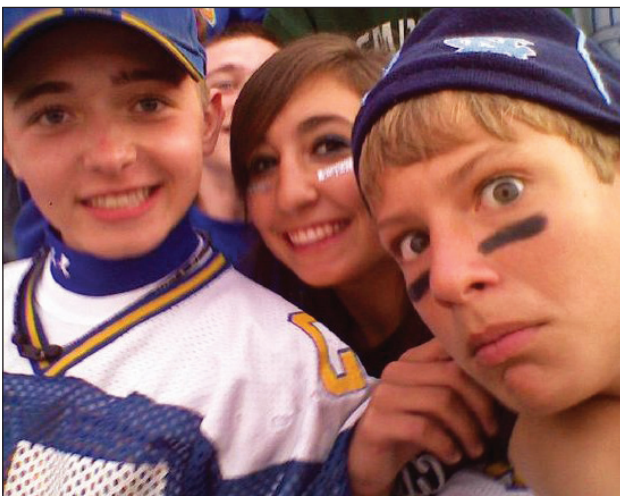
## Top Ten: Trends of senior class

1. Twitter obsessions
2. YOLO
3. Hair feathers
4. Hi-Y Basketball
5. Silly bands
6. COD
7. Camelback water bottles
8. North Face Jacket
9. Highlights and Facebook
10. Twilight and Jonas Brothers

## Top Five College Majors



## When We Were Young...



Austin Holzer, Leila Awadallah and John Schoppert experience their first high school Dakota Bowl at Howard Wood Field freshman year.



Meggie Jervik and Kristen Jones embracing each other in the hallways of their elementary school Saint Michael.



Seniors Jonathan Shaeffer, Simon Scholten, Lukas Pitzl and Molly Amundson at band camp before freshman year.





Seniors cheer on the football team during the 2011 Dakota Bowl. The Knights defeated the Washington Warriors 21-7.

Seniors share memorable teacher quotes

Maggie Loudenslager:  
“Don’t call me sassy!  
That’s a cat’s name!”  
-Mr. Krier

Connor Branick:  
“Fill in the...”  
-Mr. Keppen

Kristen Jones:  
“Senior year, no regrets!”  
-Mr. V

Sarah Barthel:  
“Because we love eachotha.”  
-Ms. Shields

Tom Breske:  
“Your life changes after  
running a half-marathon.”  
-Mr. V

Connor Schaeftbauer:  
“Let’s celebrate our knowledge.”  
-Mrs. Kruse

Wes Bednar:  
“I’m about to spill  
some blood on your nose.”  
-Grizz

Alarie Aasen:  
“Bad pookie.”  
-Mr. Lorang

Jake Schreck:  
“I was kind of a ganster  
in high school.”  
-Mr. Rutten

Cathie Scott:  
“Find the turtle... I mean total.”  
-Mr. Keppen

Brittany Nelson  
“Not all of us are half-marathoners.”  
-Mr. V

Photo Survey

Which underclassman will you miss the most?



“Sam Breske. He’s a  
rose in a field  
of daises.”

Frankie Maxwell



“Jaden Holzer. He’s  
an adorable little  
teddy bear.”

Bridget Sea



“Tyler Pals. He  
taught me Palsing.”

Ryan Lindberg



“Haley Maxwell.  
She’s one of the  
most genuine  
people I know.”  
Geni Fuller



“Johnny Shaef.  
He’s a stud muffin .”

David Saavedra



L to R: Haley Jones, Michael Andreone, Elizabeth Busch, Hollie Zwart, Charlie Solomon, Tony Klein, Chelsey Sehr, Blair Roman, Abby Windschill, Lauren Bird and Elizabeth Daniel at 8th grade graduation.



Mr. Scott Nelson gives his son Alex a hug at sophomore service day.



# Nielsen set to play at Augustana

Cassie Wilka  
Activities Co-Editor

Chandler Nielsen started playing basketball in second grade, and the rest is history. Although she started at a much younger age Nielsen proclaims to have fallen in love with basketball in seventh grade when she was able to play on the Minnesota Stars, a team based out of Minneapolis.

After many hours, practices, and years of hard work, everything is finally paying off. Nielsen is attending Augustana College on a full ride to play basketball and study pre-med. With all new experiences come some worries for what lies ahead.

“It is a very long season, so being able to balance academics and basketball is what I’m most worried about,” said Nielsen. “Also being able to stay healthy through the long season is important too.”

With all of her numerous honors and awards, one must wonder how Nielsen stays so focused and driven. “Knowing that at the end all of my hard work will have been worth my time is what keeps me going,” said Nielsen.

Also her parents and athletic trainer Brad Pfeifre have kept her on the fast track to all of this success. “He has pushed me and motivated me the entire way,” said Nielsen. “He would usually make me feel like rehab was competition because he knows I am extremely competitive.

Nielsen’s competitive attitude is what kept her going when she tore her ACL last summer. This type of injury would shatter most athletes’ dreams of continuing training for their sport, but not for Nielsen.

“It has made me a more driven athlete because I had to work so hard to get back,” said

Nielsen. “I was going to rehab 3-4 times a week. It has also given me patience and an extreme appreciation for being healthy.”

The hard work and challenges that Nielsen has overcome the past couple years has not only grabbed the attention of O’Gorman and the local media but has created younger fans that admire her perseverance. One particular little girl has formed a bond and appreciation for Nielsen. “Margeaux is awesome,” said



Senior Chandler Nielsen dribbles the ball upcourt in a state tournament game. She will be attending Augustana College next year.

Nielsen. “She was at almost every game and made me a 1,000 point sign for when I scored my 1,000th point in the district championship game.”

Training two to four hours a day has also formed strong friendships between Nielsen and her fellow teammates

here at school. “My favorite part was all of the bus rides we went on and the bonding experience that brought us,” said Nielsen.

Nielsen says she will miss her team the most when she moves on from O’Gorman basketball to Augustana.

# Seniors who are the...

- Funniest**  
1. Kade Lamberty  
2. Matt Haeder  
3. Wes Bednar  
1. Lauren Bird  
2. Crystal Berg  
3. Chelsey Sehr
- Most Compassionate**  
1. Tony Klein  
2. Brian Billion  
3. Luke Witte  
1. Elizabeth Busch  
2. Kirsti Skuza  
3. Jessie Cink
- Most Athletic**  
1. Connor Schaeffbauer  
2. Sam Steffl  
3. Flynn Donelen  
1. Chandler Nielsen  
2. Tori Langin  
3. Haley Jones
- Most Artistic**  
1. Aaron Culey  
2. Romon Gutierrez  
3. Robert Lethcoe  
1. Kelcie Rushing  
2. Amy Hagen  
3. Jessica Mechtenberg
- Most Argumentative**  
1. Tom Breske  
2. Jason Nerland  
3. Simon Scholten  
1. Lizzie O’Connell  
2. Ellen Nelson  
3. Jessica Eckerstorfer

# Senior most likely to...

- Have one million followers on Twitter**  
1. Jonathan Shaeffer  
2. Wes Bednar  
3. Quaid Scheafer
- Become President**  
1. Loghin Welch  
2. Veronica Fritsch  
3. Sarah Barthel
- Be a Talk Show Host**  
1. Robert Lethcoe  
2. Charlie Solomon  
3. Tom Breske
- Become an O’Gorman Principal**  
1. Kade Lamberty  
2. Connor Branick  
3. Joe Baka
- Be a You Tube Sensation**  
1. Peter Klein  
2. Jonathan Shaeffer  
3. Forrest Wasko
- Travel the World**  
1. Elizabeth Daniel  
2. Lauren Bird  
3. Shae Krimmelbein
- Be on the Cover of the Rolling Stone**  
1. Frankie Maxwell  
2. Aaron Culey  
3. Michael Andreone
- Live in Sioux Falls Forever**  
1. Kade Lamberty  
2. Calvin Bloemendaal  
3. Thomas Madigan
- Survive 2012**  
1. Caleb Jamison  
2. Ted Eisiminger  
3. Sam Steffl
- Win an Oscar**  
1. Shae Krimmelbein  
2. Chandler Nielsen  
3. Kelcie Rushing
- Take Over the World**  
1. Caleb Jamison  
2. Sam Steffl  
3. Tom Breske
- Be on a Reality TV Show**  
1. Shae Krimmelbein  
2. Kelcie Rushing  
3. Lizzie O’Connell
- Save all Humankind**  
1. Sam Steffl  
2. Brian Billion  
3. Danny Mohama
- Be a Priest or Nun**  
1. Mary Prouse  
2. Molly Amundson  
3. Laura Rezac
- 1. Ellen Nelson  
2. Lizzie O’Connell  
3. Mary Prouse**
- 1. Kylee Bosseler  
2. Laura Rezac  
3. Allison Kueter**
- 1. Geni Fuller  
2. Elizabeth Daniel  
3. Veronica Fritsch**
- 1. Loghin Welch  
2. Danelle Kalo  
3. Sarah Barthel**
- 1. Rachel Lamberty  
2. Jessie Cink  
3. Loghin Welch**

# Seniors share embarrassing moments in high school



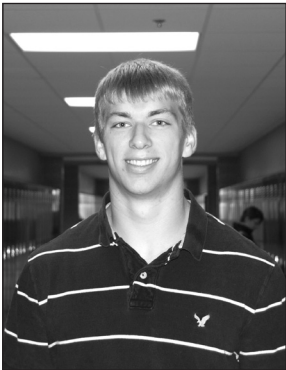
“When my voice cracked while leading the first down chant.”  
Michael Payne



“Rachel Ormseth and I had a huge obsession with Greg Billion!”  
Mary Prouse



“Falling down the temporary red metal staircase freshman year.”  
Molly Amundson



“Getting an A- on a geometry quiz...ugh!”  
Sam Steffl



# Awadallah finds passion, pastime in dancing

Veronica Fritsch  
Faith Co-Editor

When walking into Balleraena dance studio, one may see a room full of mirrors with ballet bars lining the wall. However, for Leila Awadallah, she sees her home- the place where her passion for dance thrives.

As the lights turn on, the studio comes alive with haunting music while she performs her senior recital solo in a flawless manner – exuding emotion, passion, and grace with every precise movement.

In second grade, Awadallah pranced into Balleraena dance studio and took her first class. From then on, dance became her passion.

“The mixture of artistic expression with emotion and extreme physical demands is something I just crave to do,” says Awadallah. “It’s amazing that you can make an audience feel something just by watching you. I’ve looked up in the audience and seen people crying just because of a sad type of performance.”

“It’s almost like dance is of its own world and portrays life in its own unique way. I couldn’t live without visiting this world daily,” said Awadallah.

While many dancers take classes as a pastime after school, Awadallah made it her main priority- training in the morning and after school, traveling to

dance camps on the weekends to work with renowned choreographers and even teaching classes at the studio.

“It is extremely hard to balance dance, school and a social life. I dance 16 hours a week at the least, but my free time is scattered with extra rehearsals. This year I was gone in Minneapolis dancing almost every weekend. In camps, I’ve done up to 12 hours a day.”

“It gets extremely expensive but I work off a lot at the studio and I also am so thankful my parents are so supportive. In the present moment it is really hard to have to miss out on certain things but in the end it’s always worth it.”

This past fall, Awadallah’s weekends were spent in Minneapolis. She was hired to perform with a group of select dancers in an original show called “Blue Heaven” based on the five stages of grief. She worked with her dance teacher and six professional dancers in the cities.

“It was an amazing experience to work with such talented and inspirational artists - even though I spent quite a few hours on the road. A couple weekends I had to drive to Minneapolis and back home on a Friday, rehearse in Sioux Falls all day Saturday, and then drive up and down again on Sunday,” said Awadallah.

Awadallah always knew she

wanted to continue dance past high school, but making the decision where she wanted to dance was difficult.

“When looking for a college, my only concern was the dance program,” said Awadallah. “My heart was set on George Mason in Virginia, but I also liked a school called Muhlenberg in Pennsylvania. I planned to audition for University of Minnesota’s dance program merely as a practice audition before I traveled to the other schools. I ended up liking the audition at U of M so much - it felt perfect.”

“I was accepted at all three schools but the energy and artistry I felt in class with the faculty at U of M drew me that direction. It was hard to give up my dream of Virginia, but I couldn’t get my experience in Minnesota out of my head.”

It is no easy task gaining admission into any of these schools’ dance program. They are highly selective and only accept around 20 freshmen per year, with over 200 students auditioning.

Each audition consists of learning class work with about 60 other dancers. Small groups then perform for the judges, along with each dancer’s individual solo.

“At the beginning of an audition I am always shaking uncontrollably, but once I start really dancing I lose all the nerves and I



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Leila Awadallah has made dancing a major part of her life. She will be attending the University of Minnesota next fall.

push myself to be somebody they remember or even notice for a split second.”

Next fall, Awadallah will pursue a BFA in dance with emphasis on Modern. In addition, she will take Ballet, Jazz and African classes. She was admitted into

the highest level of classes possible for a freshman at the U of M. After college, Awadallah hopes to be hired to dance in a company. “There are so many amazing companies in Minneapolis but I also would love to travel somewhere new.”

## Favorite Teachers

“Mr Gordon - he is passionate about whatever he does.”  
-Joe Baka

“Mr. Krier for obvious reasons.”  
-Halle Jones

“Mr. Rutten, he’s pretty mellow.”  
-Dylan Bakken

“Ms. Schnell because her stories make me laugh!”  
-Chandler Nielson

“Mr. Lindemann because he gave us bom-pops during class once!”  
-Jessie Cink

“Ms. Grinde, I appreciate math now”  
- Maria Swanson

“Mrs. Somervold... she’s my mom.”  
-Erik Sommervold

“Mr. V, because he’s super fly...and cool.”  
-Tom Breske

“Mrs. Bradfield, because her class gives me tools for life.”  
-Josh Jorgensen

## Best High School Memories

“Seniors trying to bring oranges to school as a prank -we just wanted to eat them.”  
-Marissa McCoy

“The orange hiding under Mr. Keppen’s TV all year.”  
-Makayla Hagerty

“When Cassie Wilka and I laughed throughout our entire interp piece and got last place. She had to read my lines.”  
-Lauren Bird

“Speedo Man.”  
-Tyler Kappenman

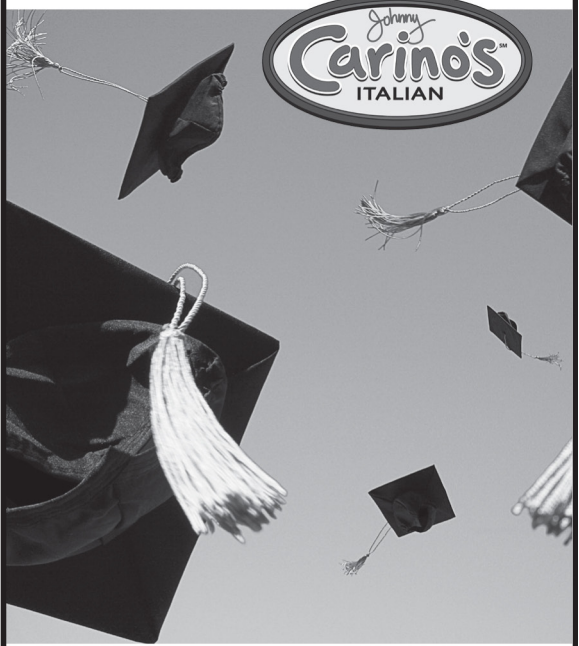
“Making a pirate ship for homecoming.”  
-Luke Witte

“Beating Roosevelt junior year and going to the Dome.”  
-Austin Ridl

“When Alex Nelson ALMOST made the winning shot at our Y-ball game.”  
-Jake Schreck

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## Where are they going?

### Augustana College

Ipar Alifu  
Flynn Donelan  
Ben Fichter  
Erik Friestad  
Makayla Hagerty  
Halle Jones  
Adam Juhl  
Thomas Madigan  
Chandler Nielsen  
Adam Stommes  
Sam Wallin

### Barry University (Miami Shores, FL)

Ramon Gutierrez

### Black Hills State University

James Brule

### Brown University (Providence, RI)

Samuel Steffl

### Butler County (El Dorado, KS)

Damon Baruth

### Catholic University of America

Brian Billion

### Creighton University (Omaha, NE)

Tyler Kappenman  
Rouba Maluf  
Anthony Rauschenbach

### St. John's University (Collegeville, MN)

Lukas Pitzl

### Concordia College (Moorhead, MN)

Tori Langin

### Concordia University (Seward, NE)

Matt Meisinger

### Dakota State University

Peter Klein  
Terry Kuca  
Sam Peery

### Dakota Wesleyan University

Stacey Kautz  
Alex Nelson

### DePaul University (Chicago, IL)

Lindsay Spencer

### Goucher College

Geni Fuller

### Millikin University (Decatur, IL)

Joseph Bezenek

### Minneapolis College of Art and Design

Aaron Culey

### Minnesota State University (Mankato, MN)

Loghin Welch

### Minnesota State University (Moorhead, MN)

Kyle Bruggeman  
Francis Maxwell  
Katie Raaen

### Montana State University

Forrest Wasko

### Mount Marty College

Molly Buche  
Kirsti Skuza

### NET Ministries

Will Penisten

### Northeast Community College (Norfolk, NE)

Kaitlin Niles

### Northwestern University (Evanston, IL)

Joe Baka

### North Dakota State University (Fargo, ND)

Jackson Davis  
Alec Wegner

### Notre Dame (South Bend, IN)

Mary Prouse  
Aaron Tarnasky

### Presentation College

Sam Boese

### South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

Matthew Dondelinger  
Quaid Scheafer  
Miranda Stefanich

### South Dakota State University

Alarie Aasen  
Chelsey Abraham  
Sam Bell  
Crystal Berg  
Calvin Bloemendaal  
Kylee Bosseler  
Connor Branick  
Alyssa Brazil  
Cole Gebhart  
Semehar Ghebrekidan  
Yonatan Ghebrekidan  
Amy Hagen  
Anna Hassel  
Ally Hemmer  
Kayla Hillberg  
Beth Honner  
Meggie Jervik  
Kristen Jones  
Danelle Kalo  
Kaylee Karsky  
Michaela Kouri  
Mitch Kasten

Ryan Lindberg  
Chris Mehlhaff  
Alex Millard  
Austin Nachtigall  
Brittany Nelson  
Rachel Ormseth  
Kenzie Pistulka  
Ali Rausch  
Mikaela Schnetter  
Jacob Schreck  
Jonathan Shaeffer  
Maria Swanson  
Abigail Windschill

### Southeastern Louisiana Univ. (Hammond, LA)

Kelcie Rushing

### Southeast Technical Institute

Allison Kueter  
Adam Livermore

### Southwest Minn. State Univ. (Marshall, MN)

Weston Bednar  
Ryan McGreevy  
Blair Roman

### State University of New York (Binghamton, NY)

Tae Um

### St. Catherine University (St. Paul, MN)

Ashton Weber

### St. Mary's University (Winona, MN)

Rachel Lamberty

### St. Olaf College (Northfield, MN)

Lauren Bird  
Simon Scholten

### United States Army

Tyler Peltier

### United States Navy

Michelle Connelly  
Sam Naibose

### University Center

Catherine Scott

### University of Dallas

Lizzie O'Connell

### University of Iowa

Kerri Delaney

### University of Kansas

Tom Breske  
Julia Nyberg  
Jacob Rogers  
Cassandra Wilka

### University of Minnesota

Leila Awadallah  
Jessica Eckerstorfer  
Sam Fogas  
Veronica Fritsch  
Molly Fritz  
Austin Ridl  
Connor Schaeffbauer

### University of Minn.-Duluth

Austyn Young

### University of Minn.-Crookston

Elizabeth Busch

### University of Nebraska (Lincoln, NE)

Alyssa Beacom  
Morgan Erickson  
James Gaspar  
Ben Harris  
Josie Heisel  
Austin Holzer  
Molly Millage  
Nick Mimmack  
John Schoppert  
Bridget Sea  
Chelsey Sehr  
Charles Solomon

### University of North Dakota

Avery Cleberg  
Rachel Johnson

### University of San Diego

Mackenzie Kroon

### University of Sioux Falls

Christina Brennan  
David Saavedra

### University of South Dakota

Katrina Anderson  
Sarah Barthel

Sarah Bushman  
Elizabeth Daniel  
Ted Eisiminger  
Matthew Haeder  
Dusty Haffeman  
Jordan Hermanson  
Sophie Hunter  
Jenna Johnson  
Josh Jorgensen  
Cara Koch  
Kade Lamberty  
Kaylor Lang  
Robert Lethcoe  
Maggie Loudenslager  
Marissa McCoy  
Keegan Miles  
Ellen Nelson  
Jason Nerland  
Michael Payne  
Laura Rezac  
Joe Runge  
Zach Shaw  
Kathleen Viereck  
Joseph Wurtz  
Hollie Zwart

### University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, MN)

Molly Amundson  
Michael Andreone  
Dylan Bakken  
Jessica Cink  
Emily DeVos  
Haley Jones  
Tony Klein  
Jessica Mechtenberg  
Luke Witte

### Valley City State University (Valley City, ND)

Shae Krimmelbein

### Winona State University (Winona, MN)

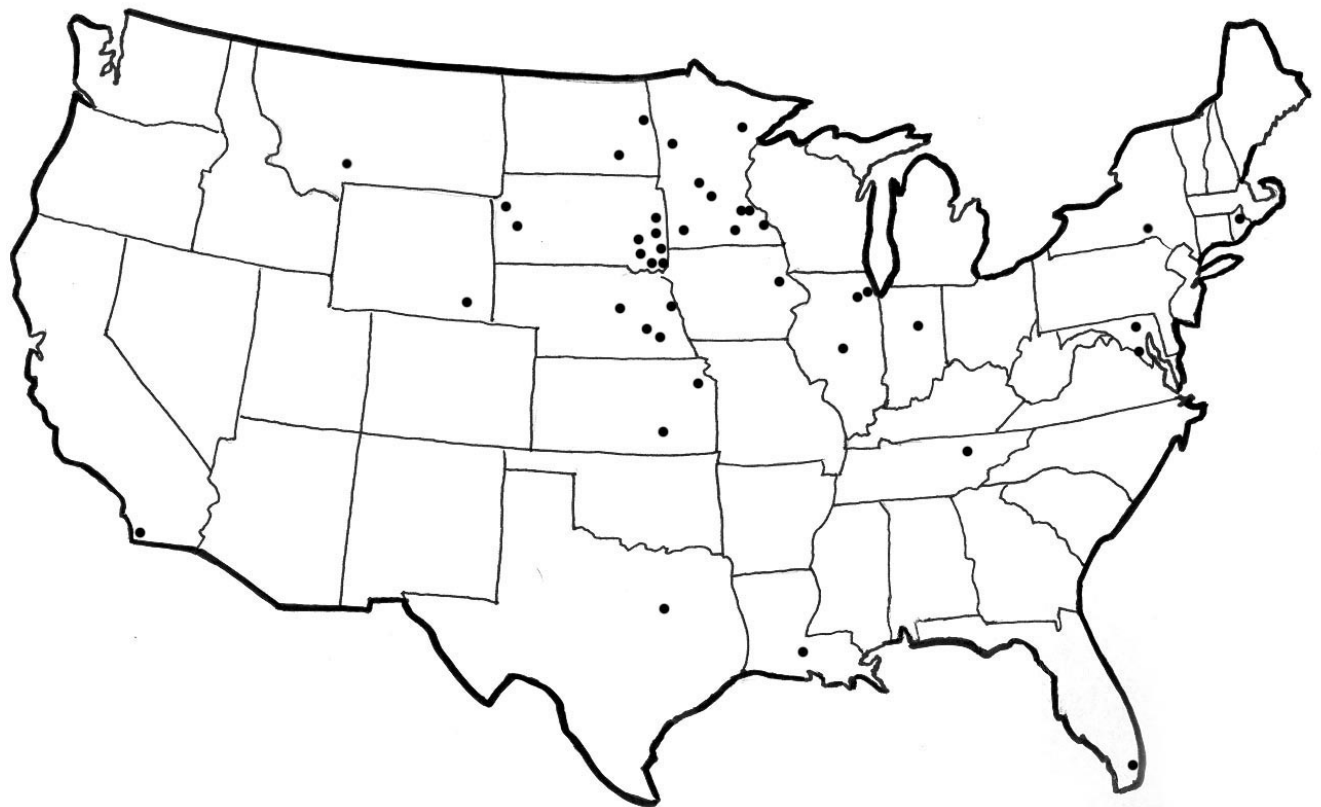
Abby Lauer

### Wyoming Technical Inst.

Giovanni Marquez

### Undecided

Jonah Beacom  
Brianna Gerads  
Danny Mohama  
Lauren Promes  
Erik Sommervold  
Clarissa VanderWoude





## Basketball standouts finish careers

**Q & A:** Continued from page 4

They advertised themselves in a very attractive way.

KS: How have each other's talents helped you grow as athletes together?

CS: We play football and basketball together and as you can tell we are two different types of players. Obviously, in basketball I am the point guard and run the show and we have separate talents. You know that I bring skills to the table and then Wally brings skills that I don't have and that was really evident in the state championship.

SW: I think we meshed well. I mean he was the quarter back, I was the tight end, he was the point guard I was the forward and it seemed like in both sports we were working together to accomplish the same goal. We did pretty well in both sports, but in basketball it worked out how we wanted it.

KS: What do you think O'Gorman has given you, both as an athlete and as a person to use in your college experience?

SW: I think basketball has given me more. There are a lot of ups and downs. It's not good like running sprints after we shoot free throws with coach Krier. It will teach you to be a tougher person for sure.

CS: As an athlete, it has taught us to strive to be the best and aim for the state championship every year. Obviously, you want to have fun and enjoy your experience but we were there to play and compete. As a person we learn sportsmanship and how to be a better person.

KS: How do you think your faith will help you at the next level?

CW: I think it's important no matter how much of a role it plays in your life. I know it will be important for myself.

SW: I think it will be important for me because I am going to a Lutheran private college. I will still have to stick to my faith amongst a bunch of people that don't have the same beliefs as me.

KS: When you look back at your high school years, what is your favorite athletic memory?

CS: The third state championship in a row, the feeling was unbelievable it was kind of shocking like, "What just happened?"

SW: Same, obviously, it was the best thing we've ever done. It was the last state championship and it really didn't hit all of us until the week after of what we really did.

## Y-Ball teams have strong finishes

Lauren Bird  
Faith Co-Editor

Without donning the varsity basketball jersey, Y-Ball provides a breeding ground for athletic prowess, rivalry and fun. In the past two years, the popularity of Y-Ball at O'Gorman has especially gained momentum.

The league is divided into grades 9-10 and grades 11-12. Further divided into categories based on levels of competitive drive, the grades are divided into two divisions, Recreational and Competitive.

Running from January through April, the winter Y-Ball League creates an opportunity to get active during the colder months.

"In the wintertime, people just want to have fun and get involved in something," said Team White coach Jason Van Engen. "You want people to grow in faith and skills through this opportunity."

Van Engen, who has coached Team White since their sophomore year, is planning to hang up the clip board as the team graduates this year. "Coaching Team White is probably the best gig you can have in Y-Ball," said Van Engen. "The bragging rights games against fellow O'Gorman teams were the most fun."

With a participation fee of \$100 for YMCA non-members and \$70 for members, any high school student can gather up a team of friends, a creative team name, and some jerseys in order to play.

With numerous O'Gorman teams participating in this program, good-natured rivalry is present. "The intensity of Y-Ball cannot be overstated," said senior Anthony Rauschenbach, a member of the Slovakian National Team, "We had a broken foot, broken finger, and a sprained ankle during our season."

The Slovakian National Team, a part of the Recreational league, lost Slovakian for-



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Slovakian National team members Anthony Rauschenbach, Tony Klein, and Luke Witte face off against the Ballaz in a Y-Ball game.

eign exchange student, Adam Kianicka, to his motherland due to a broken foot.

"Although we couldn't win the tournament due to some injuries of key players, the season was successful," said Rauschenbach.

Though Team White, the Snow Trolls, and the Slovakian National Team will not be returning to the court next year, consolation winners, The Rainmakers and Team Nice will compensate for the loss of O'Gorman Y-Ball teams.

"As a member of the consolation championship winning team, I am eager to carry on the legacy of The Rainmakers next year," said junior member of The Rainmakers, Pierce Edman. "We are all looking forward to becoming one of the senior teams next year and hope to make another run for the championship."

The Rainmakers, a competitive league team comprised of juniors, won the lower bracket championship against Team White.

"I'm not satisfied," said Team White member, Dusty Haffeman. "I feel like we could have won the consolation championship."

Other teams, such as the Snow Trolls, an all senior team, play more for recreation than heated rivalry.

"I am indeed satisfied with the outcome of this season," said Snow Trolls member John Schoppert. "The Trolls made a good run, especially with Calvin Bloemendaal as an active head coach."

Whether it is for bragging rights or fun, Y-Ball presents an opportunity for teenagers to shoot some hoops, bond with friends, and make memories.



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